

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington,  
Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 25, 2021 | Vol. 42, No. 44 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

## HAMPSHIRE

### Hoops, track, football approved

By Peter Spotts

The Hampshire Regional School Committee brought joy to student athletes, approving competitions for indoor track, basketball, and football starting March 1, at its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

While they've been able to practice together, the indoor track, basketball, and football teams will now get to compete against other schools during the new Fall 2 season, which starts on March 1. Nearly a dozen members of the public, most of them being student athletes, passionately delivered arguments, prepared statements, and lobbied for why the committee should approve their athletics.

"I can tell all of you Hampshire is so special for how talented our athletes are and that can represent our school...having games will

**APPROVED**, page 8

## SNOW SCULPTORS



Caleb and Allie Hebert of Huntington have fun in the snow building their snow sculptures with mom and meme and pepe on Sunday, Feb. 21.

Submitted photo by Janine LaPointe

## BECKET

### Theatre fire cause undetermined

By Peter Spotts

BECKET — The cause of the Jacob's Pillow fire on Nov. 17, which destroyed the Doris Duke Theatre site, is officially undetermined following the conclusion of the Department of Fire Services investigation.

Jacob's Pillow received the report on Feb. 12 and said in a statement the fire is indicated to have started in the southeast corner of the building. This location is where much of the building's electrical equipment was located, including professional lighting and audio systems.

**THEATRE**, page 10

## HUNTINGTON

### Vacant building destroyed in fire

By Peter Spotts

The Huntington Fire Department responded to an early morning 3 a.m. call for a structural fire at 40 Littleville Road on Thursday, Feb. 18, but the building was not salvageable.

Fire Chief Josh Ellinger said the building was vacant, so there were no injuries, but this led to a delayed 911 call. The fire had full control of the building by the time the department was notified.

**FIRE**, page 3

## CUMMINGTON

### Remembering George Shultz: resident, neighbor, friend



George Schultz was an avid golfer and teeing up at Worthington Golf Club was one of his favorite places to play. Here, Schultz is pictured with Brent Dassatti during a late 1980s golf outing.

Submitted photo courtesy of Phyllis Dassatti

By Peter Spotts

One summer, George Schultz was enjoying the family's summer home in Cummington off Route 9, enjoying a few rare weeks in the hills before returning to the hustle and bustle of helping run the country.

With the grandchildren coming to visit, a stone pool had been constructed in the front yard with one small problem — it was empty. While he was headed out of town at the time, Bernie Forgea remembers the experience for the town firefighters and other local

departments who were asked to lend a hand in filling it in time.

"My phone rang. It was Mr. Schultz himself. He asked if there was any way that we could get water in his swimming pool for him for those kids. We had the quickest put together tanker shuttle you ever found in your life," Forgea said. "We called neighboring fire departments, former DCR; these towns all showed up with their tankers and they started a tanker shuttle, and they filled that man's pool as a drill, a genu-

**SHULTZ**, page 12

## CHESTER

### Laboratory piques board interest

By Peter Spotts

The Board of Selectmen was excited by the proposal presented by Canna Testing LLC to open a laboratory testing facility behind Carn's Restaurant, in the former Charlie's Garage building, at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 22.

All marijuana products need to be tested before going to market in the state. There are currently three laboratories in the state — Framingham, Milford, and Salem — and the team presenting on behalf of the company

**PROPOSAL**, page 7



PAGE 2

Becket.....	10
Business Directory.....	14
Chester.....	7
Classifieds.....	15, 16
Cummington.....	12

Goshen.....	3
Hilltowns.....	2
Huntington.....	3
Middlefield.....	10
Montgomery.....	9

Obituaries.....	14
Opinion.....	4, 5, 6
Otis.....	10
Plainfield.....	11
Public Notices.....	14

Russell.....	16
Schools & Youth.....	8
Westhampton.....	11
Williamsburg.....	10
Worthington.....	9



# HILLTOWNS

## BLADE TRAILS



Snowfall into sunny weekends is the perfect time for skiing in Western Mass. Sherri Quinn, Lyle Congdon, and Russ LaPierre ski on Old Shaw Road at Notchview in the Berkshire Hills in Windsor.

Submitted photos



Russ LaPierre at the Trela shelter.



Lyle Congdon climbing to Judge's Hill.



Russ LaPierre and Liz Massa meet up at Pierce Shelter.

# Free introduction to manufacturing offered, unemployed targeted

By Eileen Kennedy

COVID-19 has torn through the economy as companies had to dial back their services or products in the wake of the pandemic, change their business models and furlough or lay off employees left and right to make it. Others just shut down entirely. While some people have been able to find work, there are plenty of workers who haven't been able to, and the state wants to help.

For those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 and remain unemployed, the MassHire Career Centers in Holyoke and Springfield are offering free virtual manufacturing training classes. They will help participants learn about career manufacturing, basic manufacturing standards, manufacturing processes, basic blueprint reading, quality control processes and tips on teamwork. The career centers used to be known as the state's One-Stop Shop for employment needs for those looking for work and employers.

Participants must have a high school diploma, internet connectivity with streaming capability, be unemployed due

to COVID-19 and have a device such as a laptop, desktop computer or tablet to access the internet. It is also compatible with cell phones. Instructor coaching is also provided.

"The last two governors have been very invested in what they can do to maintain or grow manufacturing as an industry in general," said MassHire Career Center Holyoke President and CEO David Gadaire said.

With COVID-19 translating to job losses for many, it was decided to target those who have lost their jobs as layoffs and business closures began last March as restaurants, gyms and other businesses were temporarily closed and then able to start up in reduced capacities, he said.

"We think many people wrongly have this picture of what manufacturing is all about, with idea that it's dirty," he said. "But many manufacturers have pristine processes, for which mathematics is needed and their manufacturing is really a science."

He said starting wages are good and it's possible to make a sustainable wage and move through company ranks to get ahead.

"The classes are a guide, to counsel them as to what to expect in manufacturing, the kind of math needed and so they candidly will know what's going on," he said. "It's also designed to get people off unemployment and help them move into what could be a good career."

The classes are self-paced and offer tips on who work as a team member, how to address concerns that come up on the manufacturing floor and problem resolution, Gadaire said.

Businessman Joseph Peters, a member of MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, has been in manufacturing for decades, and decided to test drive the classes to be sure potential students would get useful information about manufacturing if they took them.

"It provides exposure to manufacturing machines, safety protocols among other things," said Peters, who owned Universal Plastics in Holyoke up to a few years ago, and who remains active in the company. "I think someone who has gone through this would be looked at differently than someone who hadn't taken it when it comes to the hiring process. I would be much more interested in someone who

had taken this course. Our company is looking for people right now and this would give someone a lot of advantages."

Peters said these days many young students are not exposed to manufacturing at all and are unfamiliar with it either generally or specifically. That exposure differs from when he was young, when many people knew people in manufacturing even if their immediate family wasn't involved, he said. The classes provide that exposure if they've never had it in school or in the workforce," he said.

"He's lived manufacturing and breathed it his whole life, and in my mind that makes his opinion about it very credible," said Gadaire of Peters' opinion that it gives potential job seekers a way into manufacturing.

For more information or to register for the classes contact Kate Smith at Masshire Holyoke at 413-322-7162 or Ksmith@masshireholyoke.org or Yvette Jackson at Masshire Springfield at 413-858-2827 or yjackson@masshirespringfield.org.

The funding for the classes was provided by the state Office of Housing and Economic Development.

## SNOW SCULPTOR



Caleb and Allie Hebert of Huntington have fun in the snow building their snow sculptures with Mom and Meme and Pepe on Sunday, Feb. 21.

Submitted photo by Janine LaPointe

# Vernal pool presentation and discussion to be held March 3

The Hilltown Land Trust and the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee invites the hilltowns community to join town vernal pool reps on Wednesday, March 3, for an informative presentation on vernal pools to prepare for the 2021 Vernal pool Plunge.

The presentation will be from

Charley Eiseman, who will answer questions after the presentation. The event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. To signup and receive the Zoom link to attend, contact Hilltown Land Trust TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator Audrey Boraski at [audrey@hilltownlandtrust.org](mailto:audrey@hilltownlandtrust.org).

# HCC announce Dean's List recipients

Students from across several hilltowns earned Dean's List honors from Springfield Technical Community College for the fall 2020 semester.

The dean's list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more

combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

The following students were named to the Dean's List: Leigha Marie Chaffee of Otis; Justin Leis and Berta Warner of Huntington; Emma Rose Skrocki of Westhampton; and Kelly Louise Dionne of Worthington.

# Turley needs your input with survey

Turley Publications is looking to understand our readers and help to get factual news to them.

We pride ourselves on our commitment to community journalism and making that information available to as many readers as possible.

A survey is currently posted online about your experiences as a reader. Your responses are essential for us and will be kept confidential.

To participate in the survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DBSJ69F>.

# HUNTINGTON

## St. Patrick’s luncheon curbside pick-up on Saturday, March 20

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging will be sponsoring a St. Patrick’s Curbside Pickup Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon on Saturday, March 20. Meals will be available for curbside pickup at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington from noon to 1 p.m. at 15-minute intervals.

Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles wearing a face mask. One of the COA’s friendly volunteers will greet them and bring out their meals. All ages are welcome. The suggested donation is \$5 per meal.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 413-512-5200 by Saturday, March 6. Reservations are limited to 100. In the event of snow, the luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 27. The event is subject to cancellation due to any updated state COVID-19 restrictions. If cancelled, then participants will be called in advance.

## Local student earns academic honor

HUNTINGTON — Thomas Hyjek was named to the Fall 2020 President’s List at Western New England University.

A finance major, Hyjek was one of more than 500 students to earn the accolade for achieving a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

### FIRE

from page 1

“With as much involvement with the fire as it was, it was burning well before 911 was called,” Ellinger said. “It took a couple hours [to put out]. It was fully involved when we got there. It had been burning for a while before anybody noticed it. When we pulled up the roof had caved in, so it had been burning for some time.”

The area also doesn’t have hydrant service. Huntington partnered with mutual aid from Blandford, Chester, Montgomery, Russell, Westhampton, and the Department of Fire Services Rehab Unit to get enough trucks and a tanker line established for water flow. The Huntington highway Department also lent a helping hand.

“That area of town is too far away from the hydrant system, so we still had to shuttle water in,” Ellinger said. “The highway department came and dumped off sand and sanded the driveway for us so no one would get injured going up and

down the icy driveway. We ran into no issues. Things ran pretty smoothly.”

No one was injured fighting the fire or in the fire itself. The state Fire Marshal’s office is investigating the cause of the fire, which is currently undetermined.

“It was a vacant home so there was nobody there to be alerted to even if there was an issue with detectors or things like that,” Ellinger said. “There’s no one there to call in the fire early enough to save what was there. It was chance that someone noticed it from nearby.”

Ellinger added he was pleased with the performance of the firefighters and everyone handled the situation well. Given the circumstances, it was a positive outcome for the department.

“The outcome came out as expected for what we had,” he said.

More information will be available in the future once the investigation into the cause has been completed.

### WINTER’S SHADOW



Late winter shadows encroach across the snow in Huntington.  
Submitted photo by Bill Madden

## NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Mark 8:31-38, invites us to wonder what is our cross and what does it mean these days to take up our cross.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

# GOSHEN

## Hilltown Food Pantry, Council on Aging bolstered by CARES

By Shelby Macri

GOSHEN — During CARES Act update, Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti spoke about the increase of people using the Hilltown Food Pantry and the Council on Aging providing hot meals to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scaparotti said, currently, there’s enough CARES Act funding to help both the Food Pantry and the COA in proving food and meals to the community and surrounding towns. While the COA is only serving local seniors, the Hilltown Pantry is available to surrounding hilltowns, not just Goshen residents.

There’s enough extra funds to give \$1,000 dollars to the food pantry and \$1,500 dollars to the COA, as they are working with The Rabbit Hole Restaurant in Worthington to provide warm meals to seniors. Scaparotti also mentioned that the town has to use the money on things

directly affected and associated with COVID-19 and the list of areas receiving funding will need to be submitted soon; she’s working on it.

The Hilltown Pantry is run through the Northampton Survival Center. The Center has received CARES Act money allocated specifically for the Northampton Pantry. Pantry Director Diane Drohan said that the Hilltown Pantry hasn’t received CARES Act money currently, but the Selectboard has expressed they want to contribute some funding to the pantry.

“If we receive funding, we will purchase additional fresh produce, dairy items, and frozen meat options,” Drohan said. “There is also a great need for personal care items and toiletries.” Currently, the food pantry is not allowing guests inside the building due to COVID-19 restrictions, they distribute food outside as cars pull up in front of the pantry door. She said that the number of clients raised during the beginning of COVID-19, but

has since leveled out, though they’ve increased the weekly allotment to help alleviate food concerns and trips to grocery stores.

As for the COA providing hot meals, it started during the first round of CARES Act funding last year. COA Director Evelyn Culver suggested providing hot meals and Scaparotti checked to see if the funding could support the activity, and when the town received funding they held a luncheon.

The COA held a luncheon on Feb. 9 for Valentine’s Day and they plan to hold another one on March 9 for St. Patrick’s Day. Seniors can sign up to attend the luncheon; there’s a deadline of March 3, and people can contact Culver at 413-238-3316.

Culver said that the meals start out hot and they try to provide warm meals to the seniors, though it’s a drive-up event to abide by COVID-19 guidelines.

The COA used to have a monthly luncheon before COVID-19 and while that’s not guaranteed during this time, Culver is trying to keep some normalcy for the seniors in town. Culver also said that she likes to inform people of local businesses and places to visit to help seniors and to engage in local interaction.

“The food pantry is open, and I put flyers in the bags with the meals from the luncheon, to encourage people to go to the food pantry,” Culver said. “Red’s Bakery supplied cookies for the December and February luncheons; I like to try and help the local people. They’re really trying hard during this time.”

Culver is encouraging seniors to sign up for the luncheon, for people to visit local businesses, and the Hilltown Food Pantry. She understands things have gotten harder from the virus and wants people to take the help that’s being offered; the town of Goshen and surrounding hilltowns are happy to help their residents through this difficult time.

## Corned beef and cabbage dinner reservations needed by March 3

GOSHEN — The Council on Aging is offering a curbside St. Patrick’s Day corned beef and cabbage luncheon on Tuesday, March 9. Pick up will be between 11:30 a.m. and noon. The COA is asking for a \$5 donation. These meals are provided for Goshen residents. If

someone is unable to pick up their meal, the COA can arrange plans for delivery.

Please make a reservation before Wednesday, March 3, by calling Evelyn at 413-268-3316. Spruce Corner Restaurant is cooking the meal; Red’s Bakery is providing the dessert.

## Muscle strength classes available

GOSHEN — Joan Griswold’s muscle strengthening classes continue on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays at 10:15 a.m. If someone is interested in joining, contact Joan2byhealth.com. Goshen sponsors the Wednesday morning class and donations are accepted at any time.

Send donations to Goshen COA, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE COUNTRY JOURNAL  
ONLINE AT: COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Here’s a return to normalcy: It’s tax time!

February is drawing to a close and that means it’s time to turn the page to no one’s favorite subject – taxes. Some well-organized residents no doubt have already filed their federal and state returns in time for the first day of processing, which was about two weeks ago. The rest of us have until April 15. Take note of that date, because unless the U.S. Treasury Department or Mass. Department of Revenue make an unexpected change, the extended July deadline offered last year because of the pandemic is no longer an option.

Hey, we’ve all been wishing for a return to normalcy, right? Maybe not exactly what you had in mind, but it might make you feel better to consider this a step in the direction of life in a post-pandemic world.

Whether you prepare your returns yourself, pay an accountant or other professional, or have a friend or relative handle your tax filing, here are a few tips that could make this annual rite a little easier and perhaps help save you money:

First and foremost, get organized. Dust off your copy of last year’s return. If you don’t have it and can’t get a copy from your preparer, you can order it from the IRS. If you used one of the many online tax prep software programs, it’s likely archived there.

Gather all of your tax-related documents such as W-2s, 1099s, and other forms you need to prove the income you earned, including Social Security, pension payments, and unemployment benefits, and any withholding you selected. Give yourself a pat on the back if you had taxes withheld from the latter two because chances are you’ll get a bigger refund.

If you received federal stimulus payments, either one or both issued in 2020, the good news is they are not counted as taxable income. However, if you received less than the full amount in either or both of the two rounds of stimulus, that could impact your 2020 return, so you’ll want to be able to reference that information.

Did you keep all your receipts for charitable contributions, work expenses eligible for deductions and the miles you logged on your vehicle for work? If yes, give yourself another pat on the back. If not, you might want to invest some time in getting that together. Documentation of student loan interest paid last year and any debt that was charged off translate into credits and liabilities, too, so you’ll want that at your fingertips.

This is just a starter list. To get a comprehensive checklist of everything you’ll need to be ready for tax return preparation, go to [irs.gov](https://irs.gov) or contact your tax prep professional.

We have a resource for you that many might be surprised to learn about — AARP. Did you know the AARP TaxAide program provides IRS-trained volunteers to prepare returns for anyone who asks. Free of charge. This is not limited to members or even seniors in general. Taxpayers of any age can use this valuable service. They even handle returns for eligible small businesses. The only limitation is this program is intended for those in the middle-income bracket and lower. There is an income ceiling and those who exceed it are not likely to be eligible for the service.

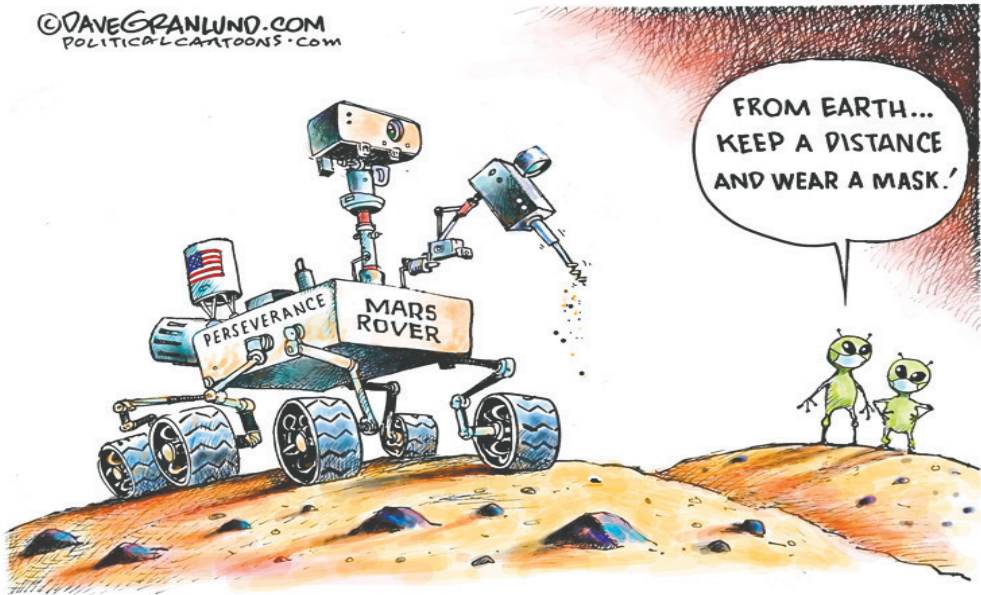
For everyone else, it’s a well-regarded service that includes e-filing, which you want; It means faster processing and less time to

TAX, page 5

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support town farmers and the right to farm

*This letter is regarding the article “Passionate Debate Continues Hearing,” The Country Journal, Feb. 18.*

I had the pleasure of meeting Adrienne and Josh Metcalf several years ago when they invited me to their farm to learn about sustainable agricultural practices used to cultivate crops on their farm. They are excellent stewards of the land. As a Becket resident, I have complete confidence that only the best agricultural practices will be followed if cannabis is grown on their land.

It is indisputable that Becket citizens support cannabis cultivation and sales. Becket approved medical marijuana by the second highest percentage among all cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Ballot Question 4 in 2016, which legalized recreational marijuana, was approved by a greater than two to one margin by Becket voters. This was the highest percentage of approval among the 32 towns of Berkshire County. Notwithstanding the clear mandate from Becket voters, some elected town leaders continue to substitute their own personal opinions when making policy, rather than respecting the overwhelming will of the voters.

Rural communities have been dealt severe economic challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, and many have still not recovered from the Great Recession of the late 2000s. The proposal from Tetrahydra Agtek offers the opportunity for good, sustainable agricultural jobs for local residents, as well as additional revenue for the town. Indeed, one needs to just look at the Planning Board’s own minutes from September 13, 2017, where the Board itself stated that the exact proposed location is a “very logical place” to grow marijuana.

Notably, five of the current Planning Board members participated in that meeting.

Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution guarantees all citizens of the Commonwealth the right to farm. Becket is a Right to Farm community. Anyone who has purchased property in Becket within the past 15 years, and has taken time to read their closing documents, should be fully aware of this fact. Having been blessed to grow up next to a family dairy farm in Connecticut that operated over generations, I know a thing or two about odors. Perhaps several hundred cows and pigs can graze the land and fresh manure spread each season to help mask any possible concerns over this non-issue.

Adrienne Metcalf is correct. There is “no threat” from this proposal. Unfortunately, the real threat is to town residents who engage in or support local agriculture from some of our “representatives,” who feel it is their duty to appease a loud minority of NIMBYs (“Not In MY Back Yard”) rather than support the best interests of the entire community. I would urge everyone who engages in or supports local agriculture to attend the Planning Board meeting on March 10, 2021 at 7 p.m. —details at [townofbecket.org](https://townofbecket.org) — as well as the Annual Town Caucus on April 6, Annual Town Meeting on May 8, and Annual Town Election on May 15 to stand up for Becket farmers and let your voices be heard!

Today, for some town leaders, it is cannabis. Tomorrow, it will be your horses, cows, pigs, goats, chickens, and ducks. The time to act is now.

Steve Santoro  
Becket, MA

We will agree to disagree

*This letter is in response to “Promoting open discussion is not censorship,” The Country Journal, Feb. 18.*

Well, Jason, it is nice we do agree on some things. I felt the same about the anti-Trump posters and signs. Confucius was right by being in the wrong room. I think most of us have felt that at one time or another.

And you were also right about Mussolini. The thing is that Hitler got his start as a socialist Democrat, but they would not let him be their leader. So, he started the Nazi party.

As for Trump, his first 100 days in office, Trump created thousands of jobs, by his third-year millions of jobs. Unemployment was down to 3%, we were energy independent also exporting energy to other countries. The monies made were going into research for other means of energy. The national debt did not go up until the pandemic. You were also right that a sitting president should have bullied Republicans to work for the people more and not the party. I must say the Democrats in the house and senate stood up for the party not the people, and just attack the President because he won the election. Can you image if the house

and senate actually worked with President Trump, how many problems they could have solved together.

President Trump did not send in any militia; he sent the US Marshals to protect the US Court House. The rioters tried to burn down the courthouse with the US marshals in it. That is government property, and it is the duty of the mayor, the governor, and the president, to protect these buildings, and the governors and mayors refused to do so. Trump did the right thing in protecting government property.

As for Biden his first day, or should say night in office, he signed an executive to order shut down the pipeline putting 11,000 people out of work, and thousands more out of work in Canada. By the end of the week almost 50,000 people had lost their jobs. That figure includes the collateral damage done to the supply jobs making product for the pipeline. You must also remember that Obama and Biden came out of office multi-millionaires. Trump did not, he lost money.

So respectfully, we need to agree to disagree.

Ted Cousineau  
Blandford

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

\$12.50 Each

Digital Photos  
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](https://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

Country Journal

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

EDITOR  
Peter Spotts  
[pspotts@turley.com](mailto:pspotts@turley.com)

STAFF WRITER  
Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

ADVERTISING SALES  
John Baskin  
[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA



@Country Journal

WEB  
[countryjournal.turley.com](https://countryjournal.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](https://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 clinic information for Blandford residents from the Board of Health

**To the residents of Blandford,**  
Since Jan. 8, 2021, the Board of Health has spent numerous hours working on providing the town with a vaccine clinic. We have worked with the Department of Public Health, MIIS, Baystate and Prep Mod.  
On Feb. 16, we received notification our MCVF agreement was complete and quote “Provider site is eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes available.”  
On Feb. 15, we received authorization

from Bay State to oversee our vaccine clinic.  
On Feb. 17, we authorized Solow to ship our required refrigeration/freezer unit.  
On Feb. 18, the Board of Health received the following from Secretary of State Marylou Sudders who wrote:  
“Effective the week of March 1, the state will no longer provide first dose vaccines for individual municipal clinics, except for the 20 disproportionately impacted communities and established and approved Regional Collaboratives.

Municipalities will receive second doses to ensure that all residents have been fully vaccinated by individual local board of health clinics.”  
The Blandford board of health can continue to provide a vaccine clinic, but would have to open this clinic to all individuals in state of Massachusetts and collaborate with our surrounding towns. This means we would have to have more paperwork and commitments from the surrounding towns guaranteeing the state we would produce 750 vaccines a day/five

days a week.  
During COVID-19, the administration has changed their regulations so many times, it has always been hard to keep up with. This last change, I honestly have no words for. We have been led to believe up until the very last day, that we could provide our small town with a vaccine clinic.  
This administration feels that our small town is not important enough to honor their previous commitment of Blandford’s vaccine clinic.  
**Blandford Board of Health**

HILLTOWN HISTORY

A Tail of Crows

By Deborah Daniels

Have you been bird watching this winter? Aren’t those crows a sight to behold? Every morning around 6:30 a.m. a murder of crows come a cawing. Do those beady black eyes have murder in their heart? Alfred Hitchcock certainly convinced us that was the case in his thriller movie “The Birds.” By the way, a flock of crows is called a murder of crows. Crows get a bad rap for mobbing behavior, where they will repeatedly dive bomb and attack other birds to steal their eggs or to chase or kill predatory birds. Several crows will act together in succession to fly at their prey or enemy in a vicious attack. They do this in defense or for food, not as an act of aggression. They do not attack people.  
More crows have been settling into urban areas than ever before. Or possibly it is we who have been moving in to where crows have historically settled. The upshot is we are having more interactions with crows than in past times. What do we know about crows? They are clever birds. They have successfully used cars as nutcrackers for some time. They have been observed dropping wild walnuts onto streets, for the cars to run over and break the shells. They then retrieve the nut to eat. They even distinguish between red and green traffic lights in Japan, waiting to retrieve the nut when the traffic light is red! They have an uncanny ability to pick trash containers open. Scientists credit crows with having the intelligence of a six- or seven-year-old child. One British researcher recorded a crow performing eight separate steps using stones, sticks, and a rope to finally get a morsel of food — YouTube “Crow Solves a 8 Step Puzzle.”  
They are known to use tools like sticks to filch food in hard-to-reach places. They can make a J-hook out of twigs to reach for insects deep in wooden stumps, they probably taught Jane Goodall’s chimpanzees how to use a stick, and they recognize people who are helpful and those who mean harm as found when researchers wore different human masks when observing them and when banding them. It seems as though we are as much being studied by the crows as we study them. One theory of why they are moving to urban areas is that there are no crow hunters with guns in cities and food is plentiful. Crows have been decimated by hunters in the past. Scientists have also observed crows holding a funeral for slain crows. This is



Crows enjoying the snow in the hilltowns.



Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels

where the crows most likely study how the crow died to avoid the same fate. Crow forensics and I am not making this up!  
There are benefits to befriending a crow. Gabi Mann of Seattle, an eight-year-old, had been feeding crows in her back yard daily since she was three. The crows have been leaving her gifts of beads, paperclips, earrings, rusty screws, buttons, hooks, and glass ever since. The treasures are left in the area that she feeds them. She labels the gifts and keeps them all in a collection. Seemed the social thing to do according to crows, show your gratitude. There are more stories of crows leaving gifts to people who feed them.  
Talk about social behavior, have you read the story of Inky and the Red Hat? It is a true story about Inky the neighborhood crow who played with the children in Montague, MA. No doubt crows are social, just watch some of the videos of people who have raised orphaned crows, too cute.  
Crows belong to a class of birds known as corvids. They mate with one partner for life. They gather in roosts for the winter months sharing warmth, protection, share information on food locations, and socialize. Roosts can have hundreds of member birds that all go their separate ways at daybreak. Crows are like parrots, they can mimic the sounds of other birds, even humans. They communicate through “caw cawing” and will bob their head when doing this. They make many strange clicking and

rattling sounds as well. According to a Maryland crow hunter of 40 years, three evenly spaced calls, “cawww, cawww, cawww” is their “come here” call. You don’t want to hear two short caws and two long caws done excitedly, because this means the fight is on. No, this reporter will say no more about this successful hunter’s techniques, but what does he do with all those dead birds, four and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie?  
Crows can live for seven to eight years in the wild, and will have one brood of three to seven eggs in March or April that will hatch in another month. Chicks are capable of flying one month later after hatching. Many will stay and help raise the next generation of chicks in a process called cooperative breeding. Kind of like kids today living at home longer to conserve scarce resources. In this case, the adolescent crows act like nannies to the new chicks, but still are free to socialize and play in the extended family. This is theorized to be extended learning time; they’re growing bigger brains! Crows are omnivorous. To clarify, their diet is 60-70% plant based, seeds, nuts and fruit; 20-30% insects, worms, bird eggs, fish and frogs; and less than 5% carrion and garbage. Do you think that might be changing?  
How can you tell a crow from a raven? Ravens are bigger, but look at the tail, a raven has a diamond shaped tail, and a crow has a fan shaped tail. Crows caw and a raven’s cry is “gronk, gronk” with no head bobbing. Most dramatic of all, ravens soar for extended periods



An American Crow. Online graphic

while a crow flaps its wings; it can glide short distances, but not soar. Ravens love to catch thermals (warm rising air current) soaring up then folding their wings and dropping down in a spectacular manner as any Hilltown hiker can attest as seen on Tekoa!  
Don’t say nevermore to crows. Welcome them, they are entertaining and who knows what their Native Intelligence will teach us!

*Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you’d like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.*

TAX

from page 4

get a refund if you’re due one. AARP suspended this program just about a year ago in response to the pandemic because the service was provided in-person at libraries, senior centers and other public facilities. Since then, they have had time to plan and adjust and AARP TaxAide now offers drop-off and virtual service using secure servers that protect your

Social Security number and other vital personal information.  
There are some in-person appointments, but none in our immediate area. For all the information about that program, go to [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org](https://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org).  
So, are you ready to “render unto Caesar?” If not, make it a priority. April 15 will be here before you know it.

Country Companions

*If you have a special animal companion in your life, send us a photo by email to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com) or by mail to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. We look forward to hearing about your pet.*



OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Milk jug seed starting part 2

This week we will delve into part 2 of the great milk jug seed starting experiment, posed by Barbara who wrote in last week wondering if I have had any success with this trendy technique.

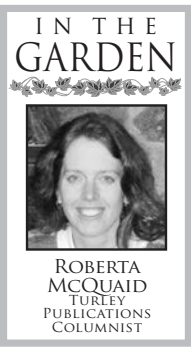
Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant. There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist

seed starting mix. ‘Coast of Maine’ has recently become my favorite after a few years of trying out new brands. With the soil in place, sow your seeds. If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don’t cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down. How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage. For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out. Close the



container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won’t smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season

than normal. January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” or other terms.

You can begin to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like, while April should be reserved for warmth-lovers like pepper, tomato, basil, zinnias and marigolds, paying special attention to frost predictions and bringing these plants in as needed.

Well Barbara, thank you for the great topic! I promise to give this method a try and will report back my successes and failures.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

The last week of January, I saw a barred owl perched in a tree at the edge of my yard. Last year, I saw a barred owl in my yard on a regular basis. It would often perch on the roof of my henhouse. This year, I had not seen it until recently. It was probably hoping to catch rodents hiding in the tall grass.

The barred owl is a large, earless owl with dark eyes. It has barring on its head and chest with streaking underneath. It has gray and brown feathers and white spots on its back. It is about 17 to 24 inches long. The barred owl and barn owl are the only owls with black eyes; all others have yellow eyes.

The barred owl is one of the more vocal owls, often calling during the day and saying “hoo–hoo–hoo-hoo,” which sounds like “who cooks for you?” The female’s hoots are higher pitched than the male’s. They inhabit woods and woodland swamps. A pair often calls back and forth to each other.

The female lays two to four white eggs. She will use a nest box, which has a hole greater than six inches or nest in an abandoned hawk or crow nest. The average territory is about one square

mile. In winter, they may expand the territory with males often leaving the territory when food is scarce. In early spring, they return to their mate and territory.

**Injured barred owl**

I recently read a barred owl, which was struck by a car, and brought to the Cummings School Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Grafton for treatment, was returned to the wild. A man driving behind the vehicle, which hit the owl, saw it happen. He stopped as the owl appeared stunned and was flapping its wings. He wrapped it in his coat and called police. It was brought to Tufts and released back into the wild at a wildlife area near where it was found a few weeks later.

**Red-winged blackbird**

A Wheelwright resident saw his first red-winged blackbird for 2021. He said he did not see the bird at his feeder, but he saw it perched in a tree and then in flight.

**Flock of robins**

I received an email from a North Brookfield resident on Jan. 30. She said, “This week I had a flock of robins

descend on my holly bush and eat every berry on it and it was full of berries.” She also had four starlings come to her feeders.

**Birds during snowstorm**

The month of February opened with a major snowstorm Monday, Feb. 1 into Tuesday, Feb. 2. It dumped over a foot of snow. The snow started early Monday and I had a mourning dove, five or six blue jays, at least six American goldfinches, a pair of cardinals, three chipping sparrows, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpecker, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and dark-eyed juncos. I also had a group of gray squirrels. Tuesday I had two squirrels tunneled into the snow to find the seeds on the ground under the tray feeder. Except for the mourning dove, all the birds from yesterday came to the feeders. The male cardinal stood out with his bright red feathers against the white snow.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird-related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at ext. 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*



A barred owl. Courtesy photo

Winter weather a major factor in crashes

Dangerous winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths in an average winter, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Close to half of all crashes involving bad weather take place in the winter. AAA encourages drivers to be vigilant when hitting the road this winter and to always stay prepared by carrying an emergency roadside kit in the vehicle. AAA recommends the

following tips while driving in snowy and icy conditions: Stay home. If you really don’t have to go out, don’t. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it’s better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.

**Drive slowly.** Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.

**Accelerate and decelerate slowly.** Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don’t try to get moving

in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: it takes longer to slow down on icy roads. Increase your following distance. Allow five to six seconds of following distance between your vehicle and any vehicle in front of you. This space allows you time to stop safely if the other driver brakes suddenly.

**Know your brakes.** Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal. Don’t pump the brakes. Don’t stop if you can avoid it. There’s a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

**Don’t power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly. Don’t stop going up a hill. There’s nothing worse than trying to get

moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill. “More than 40 percent of motorists do not carry an emergency kit in their vehicle,” said Ms. Maguire. “Drivers attempting to brave bad weather should remain cautious and always be prepared by packing an emergency roadside kit.”

AAA recommends always keeping the following items in your “emergency kit” for winter driving: mobile phone and car charger, first-aid kit, blankets, drinking water/snacks for everyone in the car including pet, flashlight with extra batteries, rags, paper towels or pre-moistened wipes, basic toolkit including duct tape and warning devices such as flares or reflectors, ice scraper/snow brush, jumper cables/jump pack, traction aid such as sand, salt or non-clumping cat litter, tarp, raincoat and gloves and shovel. AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 64 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 5.7 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.



# CHESTER

## LANDMARK STATUS



On the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail, two arches have been awarded national historic landmarks status. *Submitted photo*

# PROPOSAL

feels it's an opportunity for Chester to become a unique hub in the western part of the state.

“It’s really an opportunity for Chester to get on the map and really contribute to the ecosystem and the safety of the consumers that are going to be involved in any kind of cannabis products in the state of Massachusetts,” Nach Davé said. “Certainly, this is a business opportunity here, but more than that I think it’s an opportunity for the town to really be at the forefront of consumer safety and believing in the science that this lab will eventually bring into town.”

Dave added "I'm a pharmacist by trade so for me to be involved in this project and be a part of this, it really comes down to consumer safety."

David Fournier said the site is zoned for commercial use and will be a good location for the deliveries of products coming in to be tested, and employees coming to work without going through neighborhoods as it's right on Route 20.

Huntington Architect Jeff Penn, who worked on the restoration of Carm's Restaurant, is helping plan the design for

the lab as well. Penn informed the board there will be no extensions beyond the existing building footprint, windows facing the road will be retired, and the rear of the building will become a delivery zone and parking area, providing additional parking to what is already onsite.

"They asked me to look over the building and integrate their lab design into the existing structure," Penn said. "I've looked at the structure, I've looked at the code...and we'll make sure this is a safe, healthy environment with a minimal impact on the neighborhood."

As a laboratory, it'll have less concerns surrounding odor and some of the other concerns that arise from a cultivation facility. For security, it'll have audio and video monitoring in line with state requirements, which will be connected to local law enforcement. Access will be biometric, and keycard locked.

"Our goal is to be good neighbors to the town of Chester," Fournier said.

While the town won't be able to get a benefit of 3% sales tax revenue, they would from a retail facility, they can bring in up to 3% as part of the host

# Vulnerability mapping continues March 6

**CHESTER** — Chester Strong, resilient and ready mapping with Meredyth Babcock, continues Saturday, March 6, at the Chester Railroad Museum. Sign up for 15 minutes slot any time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to share views and knowledge about Chester's vulnerability in a changing climate. Call 413-623-2070 or just stop by.

The town of Chester has joined many other, forward thinking towns

across the state in identifying and prioritizing its vulnerabilities and strengths. The changing climate is impacting every corner of the planet. The steps taken to prepare for increasing highwater events, droughts, and habitat loss matter. Taking action now can reduce, not eliminate, the inevitable impacts of the changing climate. This project is made possible through an MVP grant and the skills of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

from page 1

community agreement. Anticipated revenue for the lab once it's up and running is expected to be around \$4 to \$4.5 million.

"It would be providing you with renewed financial benefit to the town by having been redeveloped and having actual commerce occur in the back portion of that building," Fournier said.

The facility expects four to six employees onsite at the opening of the lab. Selectman John Baldasaro said he would like to see an effort made, as has been standard practice for all past host community agreement negotiations with prospective marijuana business proposals in town, to hire local.

“There’s specific training that one can give to a local employee that we hire,” Fournier said. “This is an opportunity to try and increase the footprint in regard for local folks to get involved with this industry.”

Canady Testing LLC needs a host community agreement to continue the application process with the state to get a preliminary license. If that is secured, they can proceed with construction at the location and then go for a final license

once the lab is ready to open. This process is expected to take at least four to six months.

SelectBoard Chairman Barbara Huntoon reminded them they need to hold a community outreach meeting, which the applicants would like to do as soon as possible if an agreement is successfully negotiated. The town will provide Canna Testing LLC with a copy of a past host agreement so they can use it as a template. The conversation will continue when its returned.

"Once you get that back to us, we'll go from there," Huntoon said. "I'm excited about this. The lab is a fantastic idea, makes perfect sense."

"We're probably one of the earliest adopters of the cannabis industry. We've been down this path a few times," said Baldasaro. "A lab facility I think is an excellent idea and I do agree it's probably the least impact of anything in the cannabis industry, but naturally it's our job to make sure we're protecting the character of the town...and we obviously want provide as many jobs as possible to our local residents."

# spring home

APRIL 2021  
A SPECIAL  
SUPPLEMENT TO

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
WWW.TURLEY.COM

**WHATEVER YOUR SPECIALTY, YOUR AD WILL  
REACH ALMOST 100,000 HOUSEHOLDS**

PAINT • WALLPAPER • CROWN MOULDING  
REMODELS • MAKEOVERS • FURNITURE • APPLIANCES  
HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL  
PELLET STOVES • FIREPLACES • REPAIRS  
MAINTENANCE • CURTAINS • BLINDS  
UPHOLSTERY • CARPET • HARDWOOD FLOORS  
TILING • LAMINATE • DECKS • PATIOS • GARDENS  
SPAS • LIGHTING • TREES • FLOWERS • BUSHES  
ACCENT PLANTS • SEASONAL DECOR • GRILLS  
FIREPITS • OUTDOOR SPACES • FURNITURE  
HANDYMAN • MAID SERVICES • CARPENTERS  
INSECT CONTROL • EFFICIENCY EXPERTS  
ORGANIZERS • QUICK FIXES

**Call Today To Advertise In The Spring Home Supplement**

**413.283.8393**

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS MARCH 17**

*Bridal*  
**GUIDE**  
SPRING 2021

**WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS'  
MOST COMPLETE  
BRIDAL RESOURCE**

**FEATURING LOCAL COUPLES**  
*Engagement & Wedding Announcements*

**DISTINCT CENTRAL &  
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
WEDDING SPECIALISTS**

**TIPS • IDEAS • CHECK LISTS**

**APRIL 2021**  
A SPECIAL  
SUPPLEMENT TO  
**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
[WWW.TURLEY.COM](http://WWW.TURLEY.COM)

**Advertising Deadline  
March 17th**

**CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE  
IN THE SPRING BRIDAL GUIDE  
413.283.8393**

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

APPROVED

from page 1

keep improving our mental health and physical health,” said Girls Basketball Captain Lila Labrie.

Boys Basketball Captain Justin Forest said while the team has been practicing, there are many players who may



pursue other basketball leagues if the school wasn't going to compete this year, opening up a new potential risk avenue as the other leagues have less strict protocols than Hampshire.

“A majority of our team will be playing AAU basketball if the school committee does not allow competition,” he said. “My team and I have not been playing AAU so we could potentially have this chance...Players will certainly be going into your school which creates a higher risk environment for other students, teachers, and faculty.”

School Committee Member Tom Cleary said, as a member of a board for a travel soccer group, that athletes pursuing alternate leagues to compete in can cause an equity issue.

“Players are opting to go to this other organization and are being requested to stay there over our MIAA teams,” Cleary said. “I see this as a huge challenge to public education equity in general because you have certain players who have access to sports and other who may not have those same choices available to them.”

Principal Kristen Smidy and Interim Superintendent Michael Sullivan both supported approving athletic competitions for the sports.

“There’s several things that have changed significantly in the last couple months. Community transmission is down, our experience with more students in the building is shown no transmission during the school day,” Sullivan said. “As John mentioned, the experience of winter indoor sports in other places has shown that it’s relatively safe and then the fourth thing, I think, is the way our athletes have

conducted themselves in a very serious manner the last several weeks; all of those things make me really comfortable.”

Smidy added, “I do feel comfortable enforcing the covid protocols and withdrawing the right for individuals, or a whole team, if necessary. I think the students know we all take this very seriously.”

Committee member Carl Schlerman emphasized the importance of students acknowledging the responsibility and support the committee is putting in them by approving the competitions.

“I really want to reiterate to all the student athletes that as much as I understand the importance of this to you and your lives and what you’re living through, you guys are part of a bigger community,” he said. “Many people in that community have various reasons to be very fearful about this and I just want you to respect that, appreciate that, beyond your own ambitions.”

Director of Student Activities John Plourd supported the approvals, citing many of the 35 Western Mass. schools who did compete this winter had no COVID-19 positives, and the ones that did had no transmissions among the team and contact tracing showed players contracted the virus from family members, not teammates.

“The biggest difference for me right now is I’ve been able to communicate with the other schools that have played, and they’ve all been clear there’s been no transmission,” Plourd said. “That’s enough for me to say I’m very comfortable with having competitions for our students.”

Chairman Margaret Larson shared

the Westhampton Board of Health supports athletics as long as COVID-19 mitigation strategies were being followed, but it did not support football due to it being a coop and there have been contact tracing reliability issues in other communities.

She also noted the school nurse did not support approval as well because, “inviting people to come play or be at the school is in contradiction to the protocols that we’ve had in place since the beginning of the year.”

All four sports passed with an overwhelming majority or unanimously. Fall 2 season will run from March 1 to April 25.

Hampshire does not have an indoor track facility for competitions, so the team will practice and hope the weather is nice enough come April to compete on the outdoor track using indoor track distances.

Basketball will continue to operate with the same mitigation strategies it’s been using to practice including wearing double masks and the use of a covid coach, who can remove players who aren’t following the guidelines.

Football will have several modifications as well including no huddles allowed, players staying six feet apart on the sideline, and the wearing of masks during play.

Outdoor track will take place in the spring season starting on April 25. The committee also approved baseball, softball, and lacrosse for the spring season. Wrestling is classified as a high-risk activity and the committee is waiting for more guidance from the MIAA before proceeding with any vote on the sport.

Not Just  
Septic  
Work...

SEPTIC PUMPING

SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
DESIGNED & INSTALLED

DRAINAGE

GRAVEL & ASPHALT  
DRIVEWAYS

10% OFF  
Any Service  
for Essential  
Workers

...BUT,  
GOT A PROBLEM  
WITH YOUR  
POOPER?  
CALL...

Cooper

EXCAVATING  
AND TRUCKING INC.

413-568-3164

Serving Hampden & Berkshire Counties

WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM

RE/MAX

MLS

Joy Salvini

Broker Associate

RE/MAX  
COMPASS

Chester Office: 585 Rt. 20

(413) 351-5277

email: Joy.Salvini@comcast.net

Each office independently owned and operated

Experience  
the JOY  
of Buying or  
Selling a Home

Our advertisers  
make this  
publication  
possible.

Let them know you  
saw their ad in the

Country  
Journal

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

“FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS”  
NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
Mortgagee’s Sale of Real Estate

To be sold on the premises known and numbered as

33 WARWICK ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

“Where Auctioneers Red Flag is displayed”

THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2021  
Time of Sale: 10:00 A.M.

Offering: A. Single Family Old Styled Home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, with 2,070 sq.ft.+/- of living area, situated on a 2 acre +/- parcel of land in a nice part of Town... ..DO NOT MISS THIS ONE!!!

TERMS OF SALE: Five Thousand 00/100(\$5,000.00) Dollars to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale in cash or by certified check, bank treasurer’s check or cashiers check or other official Bank Check; the balance of the purchase price to be paid within thirty (30) days of sale, upon the delivery of the foreclosure deed at the Offices Gelinis and Ward, LLP, 106 Merriam Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453.

Other terms to be announced at the sale...

Samantha J. Court, Esquire  
Gelinis & Ward, LLP  
106 Merriam Avenue  
Leominster, MA 01453  
(978) 537-2200

Francis J. Trapasso & Associates  
Constables and Auctioneers  
47 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
(508) 798-0287  
Mass. License No: 252/NH. License No. 6125  
www.ftrapasso.com

BUY DIRECT AND SAVE \$\$\$

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....89¢ lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK COUNTRY STYLE RIBS.....\$1.47 lb

USDA INSP. HUMMEL BROS POLSKA KIELBASA 20 OZ.....\$4.99 lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI

USDA INSP WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA .....\$1.49 lb

LENTEN SPECIALS

USDA INSP FROZEN TILAPIA FILLETS.....\$1.99 lb

USDA INSP FROZEN BREADED FISH STICKS.....\$1.99 lb

USDA INSP FROZEN WHOLE OCTOPUS.....\$4.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS \$3.99 lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS VEAL CUTLETS \$7.99 lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$2.77 7 LB BAG

THIS IS NO MIS-STEAK! ONE DAY ONLY SALE 2/25 - 90 MEATS 6 PAK TO GO SIX 1" NY BONELESS STRIP STEAKS \$19.99

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST TRAY PAK .....99¢ lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN VARIETY PACK CUT UP CHICKEN 15 LB BOX ...66¢ lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGH BONE-IN 10 LB BAG .....66¢ lb

USDA INSP. NATHAN’S ALL BEEF CORN DOGS 6 PAK 20 OZ .....\$3.99 ea

90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield

413-737-1288

www.90meat.com

SALE DATES: 2/25/21 - 3/3/21

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

# WORTHINGTON

## Academic honor earned by Britland

WORTHINGTON — Dayna Britland was named to dean’s List at the Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall 2020 semester.

Britland is in the computing and information technologies program. Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean’s List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4 for nine credit hours of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete,” NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

## Make snow sculptures at the library

WORTHINGTON — Calling all kids and adults! Get a pod or household together for some great outdoor fun at the coolest event yet at the Worthington Library.

Build the most creative snow statues — maybe a favorite book character — and win prizes.

The library lawn has a good snowpack and a very visible location to showcase snow art talent.

Call the Worthington Library at 413-238-5565 to reserve a group’s time and space to participate through the first day of Spring.

# MONTGOMERY

## PICK-UP DINING



A Red-tailed Hawk finds dinner in the Montgomery snow. Submitted photo by Pam Coe

## Student named to Hartford Dean’s List

MONTGOMERY — Dawson Atkin was named to President’s List for the Fall 2020 semester at the University of Hartford. Atkin has earned a place on the President’s Honors List for the fifth straight semester at the University of Hartford, where he is studying music composition. To earn a spot on the President’s Honors List, a student must have earned a GPA of 3.75 or higher.



**Send Us Your Photos!**

**countryjournal@turley.com**

Visit us at  
**www.turley.com**



**WHALEN INSURANCE**

Protecting you is our only business.

**Auto Home Business**

71 King Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-586-1000 • Fax: 413-585-0401  
www.whaleninsurance.com

*Spring It On!*

**Spring is coming! So come in and try the new spring brews.**



**Best Prices in Town • Best Selection • Honest Lottery**

**HUNTINGTON LIQUORS**

21 Russell Road, Huntington (413) 667-3201



◆ **La Cucina di Hampden House**  
1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
**413-566-8324**  
[www.lacucinahampden.com](http://www.lacucinahampden.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;  
Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm  
Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ **Route 20 Bar & Grille**  
2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)  
Wilbraham, MA  
**413-279-2020**  
[www.route20barandgrille.com](http://www.route20barandgrille.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm; Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm; Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ **Donovan's Irish Pub**  
Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA  
**413-543-0791**  
[www.donovanspub.com](http://www.donovanspub.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm; Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ **Venice Pizza & Grill**  
2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops  
Wilbraham, MA  
**413-540-8080**  
[www.venicepizzagrill.com](http://www.venicepizzagrill.com)  
OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm  
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm  
Closed Monday



**OPEN EVERYDAY**  
10am-7pm

**www.cannacornerbecket.com**  
**413-770-4bud (4283)**

3235 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223

*Located in the Route 8 Pub and Becket Liquors Plaza*

Your neighborhood dispensary!



Open everyday  
11am-9pm

**www.route8pub.com**  
**413-623-6026**

3235 Main Street  
Becket, MA

*Located in Canna Corner Dispensary Plaza*

**American Cuisine and Thin Crust Sourdough Pizza!**

**FULL BAR**  
**EAT-IN TAKE-OUT**

BECKET

Residents lobby for speed, truck control on town roads

By Shelby Macri

BECKET — Two residents brought their concerns with large trucks on their residential roads to the Board of Selectmen last Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Residents Rob Benton and Destin Heilman joined the Zoom meeting to present the Select Board with information they’ve collected over the past year. Both mentioned the number of large trucks using their roads has increased in the past two to three years, and that they wanted to look into options and gather information before going to the Board. Benton said that the truck traffic on Bonny Rigg Hill Road and the adjoining Algerie Road has gotten worse and more consistent the past few years.

Both Heilman and Benton said they gathered information on the number of trucks and ideas for how the town can reduce the speed and noise of the trucks passing through. Heilman said they factored in the effect of COVID-19 and looked at other route options available to the trucks. Due to the compression release brakes the trucks use there has

been an increase in noise on the roads, starting early in the morning and lasting throughout most of the day.

“I’ve woken up at five in the morning from the noise of the trucks, it’s a common occurrence recently. It was a relatively quiet road before the trucks started using it as a primary route,” Heilman said. “We really want an amicable solution for both the trucks and the homeowners.” He said he’s done research in other towns to see how they’ve handled it with the types of signage put up and the enforcement associated with it. The residents didn’t lay out all of their information and research as it’s compiled over a year, but they asked to be considered for an agenda appointment at a future meeting to further discuss their information.

Benton said that the residents on both roads would like to reduce the speed to 25 miles per hour, as well as putting up signage advising truck drivers to reduce their use of compression breaks except in case of emergency.

“It’s a narrow road especially with large trucks going by, there are people who walk on it. We’re also concerned

about the speed of the road, not just for the trucks but for cars too,” Benton said. “The noise is an issue, especially with large trucks using their jake brakes constantly. There was an incident where my kid was too close to the road and I was yelling at him to move but he didn’t hear me because of the noise of the trucks, he was fine but there was no way for me to alert him.”

Both residents are hopeful a reduced speed limit would give the trucks caution and reduce the use of jake brakes, as they’d have to stay slow on the road anyway. Heilman has spoken with the Massachusetts Department Transportation and looked at the ways the town could go about changing the speed limit. He discovered that it’s an ordinance of the town to change it and put up the necessary signage; while some towns have had issues with enforcement it depends on the signage, the town, and how they choose to enforce the changes.

One board member mentioned there was a sign put up on Bonny Rigg Hill Road about six months ago, and asked if there have been changes since the

sign was added and how they put it up. Benton said that his wife worked with the Highway Superintendent Edward Pickert on how to put up the sign, where the best place for it was, how to order it, and ultimately where to place it. Pickert visited the road to look at the area and where to sign would be most noticed, and encouraged the residents on their project.

Heilman said that there hasn’t been conclusive results to the sign; some drivers seem to abide by it by staying slow and not using their brakes as often, while others will continue to use their jake brakes often or speed down the road.

The residents want to take further steps and Benton said they wanted to add it to the Annual Town Meeting warrant. To do so, they need signatures on a citizen’s petition.

“We’ve been working on this since last year, so we have all our ducks in a row,” Heilman said. “We’ve done the research and there are things that can be proposed to solve these issues.”

The Selectboard said they look forward to hearing more information from the two residents.

THEATRE

from page 1

“In Massachusetts we follow the National Fire Protection Association standard for fire investigation which requires us to first determine where the fire started and then to systematically eliminate all possible causes at that location,” State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey said. “When we cannot eliminate all but one most likely cause, the standard requires us to classify the fire as undetermined.”

The report from DFS found there was no immediate notification made to the Fire Department about the fire as the alarm system had been in failure mode since Halloween. Sprinkler analysis found the sprinkler system may have worked for about 30 minutes before the pump failed. The pump also was responsible for the fire hydrant, which

did not function. These issues caused delays in setting up sufficient water supply and flow for the firefighters to fight the fire after arriving on scene.

“The delayed notification coupled with the failure of the fire sprinkler pump caused extensive damage before the fire department arrived,” Becket Fire Chief Paul Mikaniewicz said. “This fire had a grip on the building before we were even notified of the fire.”

In response to the loss of the 30-year-old performance space, Jacob’s Pillow launched an internal sitewide safety audit. The goal was to confirm the reliability of the alarm and fire suppression systems and better understand any potential security or safety risks for the rest of the buildings on its campus.

Jacob’s Pillow has also engaged an outside risk management professional to identify potential problems and issued a Request for Information to upgrade the current fire pump system.

“We are tremendously grateful to the firefighters and state officials for their work on this investigation,” said Jacob’s Pillow Executive and Artistic Director Pamela Tatge in a statement. “We take stewardship of this landmark very seriously; in light of this tragedy, we are undertaking an organization-wide risk assessment, interrogating our internal emergency procedures, and redoubling our efforts to ensure the safety of our entire campus. We continually reflect on how fortunate we are that no one was injured, and the fire did not spread.”

Thanks to an outpouring of support in the wake of the fire from artists and audiences around the world, Jacob’s Pillow was able to move several of its residencies for dance companies that had been scheduled in the theater between December through May into The Perles Family Studio, the other year-round rehearsal space on campus.

The rebuilding of Doris Duke Theatre is in early planning stages. An external consultant has been hired to conduct interviews with artists, technicians, and audience members as part of the initial research.

“Our hope is to build a theater that has all of the warmth and character of the Doris Duke Theatre while providing for the needs of artists and audiences in the 21st century,” Tatge said.

Race Amity presentation to be held Saturday, March 6

BECKET — The Becket Athenaeum will host a Race Amity Zoom Presentation on Saturday, March 6.

The lecture and media presentation will be by award-winning race relations media producer, writer, author, and documentarian William H. “Smitty” Smith. Ed.D. Smith is the executive producer and senior writer of public television documentary “An American Story: Race Amity and the Other Tradition,” co-author of companion book “Race Amity-America’s Other Tradition,” founding

executive director for the National Center for Race Amity, and a recipient of the Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award.

The event will run from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 6. Preregistration is required for the Zoom event and is available at [bit.ly/raceamity](http://bit.ly/raceamity).

The event is co-presented by the Becket Athenaeum and West Stockbridge Public Library. This program is funded by a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

WILLIAMSBURG

Correction for Public Safety Complex Vote

The Country Journal incorrectly reported that the special town meeting article for the public safety complex will offer all three options considered in “Committee recommends removing James School,” Feb. 11. While three options were looked at, the Owner’s Project Manager Steering Committee feels only one option is financially feasible, offers the community the most use of

the site, and is in the best interest of the community. The April 3rd Special Town Meeting article will be a yes or no vote for funding the recommended option - the removal on the Helen E. James School and construction of a new complex in its place. While a robust public dialogue continues around all three options, only one option will be on the ballot.

OTIS

COVID-19 clinic cancelled

OTIS — The covid-19 testing scheduled for Friday, Feb. 26 has been cancelled. The van is being pulled to do

congregate living vaccinations so they cannot come on Feb. 26.

Bunny bags registration opens

OTIS — Celebrate the coming of Spring with Bunny Bags courtesy of the Otis recreation Commission.

Bunny Bags to-go are filled with goodies including candy and some activities and will be available to be picked up on Saturday, March 27, from 100:300 a.m. to noon.

Each bag costs \$5 and payment must be received within one week of registration. Mail or drop off payment at the Rec Center, 7 North Main Road, P.O. Box 2377, Otis, MA 01253. Registration is required and closes on March 19. Limited quantities are available.

MIDDLEFIELD

Foley earns academic honor from WNE

MIDDLEFIELD —Jonathan Foley was named to the Fall 2020 President’s List at Western New England University.

An electrical engineering major, Foley was one of more than 500 students to earn the accolade for achieving a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday

before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, March 3, is roast turkey with gravy, butternut squash, homemade stuffing, whole wheat roll, and vanilla pudding with whipped topping.

WESTHAMPTON

Homesteading program planned for March library calendar

WESTHAMPTON — A couple new events are on the calendar at the Westhampton Public Library next month including a special homesteading program at the end of March.

The program — Healthy Soil, Healthy Gardens: Small Scale Practices for Soil Improvement and Carbon Sequestration — will be held on March 30 at 7 p.m. The special presentation co-hosted by the library, Grown in Westhampton and Climate Action Now.

Sharon Gensler, is a homesteader, organic grower, and educator with over 38 years of experience using no-till and cover crop soil building practices on a small scale. Maintaining living plant cover is one of the essential practices of building soil health. This workshop provides practical guidance on using cover crops in a small-scale, non-mechanized, no-till context to improve soil health both for growing more nutritious food and for sequestering atmospheric carbon into the soil to help heal climate change.

Special thanks to the Friends and The Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this program. Please email westhampton@cwmar.org for a Zoom link if interested in attending.

Online storytime with Youth Services Librarian Emily Wayne meets each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.; connect with other families and beat the social isolation. Email ewayne@cwmar.org for Zoom login.

Virtual book group will meet next on Tuesday, Mach 23, at 7 p.m. Contact westhampton@cwmar.org to request a copy of the March book and a Zoom link.

Young Adult book group will be meeting, but the date hasn't been decided yet. The group is currently choosing from a selection of award-winning titles to read next. To weigh in on the pick and for details on how to join, please contact Wayne at ewayne@cwmar.org. YA Book Group will also be weighing in on new decorations for the teen room Stay tuned for more details.

Vote on Public Safety Complex on this Saturday, February 27

WESTHAMPTON — A special town meeting is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 27, to seek borrowing authorization for the construction of a new Public Safety Complex at 1 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the parking lot of the Hampshire Regional High School. Voters will be checked in at the entrance of the parking area and given a voting card and pencil. Attendees will have the option of sitting outdoors in a designated area or remain in their cars for the discussion portion of the meeting. A professional sound crew will be present with speakers and microphones. When the question is called voters will be required to line up to check in and cast their vote. A two-thirds majority vote is required for passage of the article.

The approval is the first of two required to authorize the project and proceed. The town meeting vote will be contingent on passage of a Proposition 2 1/2 ballot question by simple majority. The election is on March 13, where voters will choose whether or not to approve a Proposition 2 1/2 ballot question to exclude the debt from the levy limit.

PLAINFIELD

Academic honor earned by local student

PLAINFIELD — Jaden Kitchen Lipski was named to dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall 2020 semester.

Lipski is in the computer science program. Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4 for nine credit hours of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Current recipients of our weekly paper, receive town news, updates, local stories and articles of interest throughout the hilltowns.



Get the Country Journal mailed directly to your home

Each week you'll receive

- TOWN HALL NEWS
- BUSINESS HAPPENINGS
- AREA EVENTS
- COMMUNITY STORIES
- SCHOOL COVERAGE
- CLASSIFIEDS
- & MORE!

3 WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

1 Use our website to securely subscribe online at COUNTRYJOURNAL.TURLEY.COM

2

CALL US 1-413-283-8393

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes!

I want to subscribe to the Country Journal!

Enclosed is my payment for:

☐ \$31 .....1 year in state

☐ \$36 .....1 year out of state

☐ \$46 .....2 year in state

☐ \$56 .....2 year out of state

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED    ☐ CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3

Please complete this form and mail it in a secure envelope to:

Country Journal  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

☐ New    ☐ Renewal    ☐ Gift

A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CW2 code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ GIFT TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CJ21TMC

CUMMINGTON

SHULTZ

from page 1

ine drill, and they were doing it.”

Getting in some drill work and practice with the tankers wasn’t the only thing firefighters found at the Schultz property that day.

“He fed them all. He pulled a gas grill out of his garage and he cooked them hamburgers, hotdogs, and sausages right there on the front lawn...wearing his red sweater because he wanted to look like a fireman,” Forgea said. “He was a great guy he really was. The whole family was. They did a great deal for the town.”

Schultz, who passed away on Feb. 6, at the age of 100, had a decorated career serving as secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan, and secretary of the treasury, director of the Office of Management and Budget and secretary of labor under President Richard Nixon. However, there was always a special place in his heart for the small hilltowns tucked away in Western Mass. when he had a little spare time to get out into the countryside, a place where his father, Birl, served as selectman.

“He only came up a couple times a year, so I didn’t see him very much,” said one of Schultz’s neighbors Jim Drawe. “He’s been a good neighbor and his grandkids used to play with my kids when they were up here.”

Old family friend Leslie Figiela recalled one of her favorite stories is Schultz’s account of how the family farmhouse was moved up the hill to its current location.

“To hear George talk about it, it was one of his favorite stories. His version of it were horses pulling the house up the hill,” she said. “Whether that’s accurate or not, I don’t know.”

One of the people who did see the Schultzes when they were in town regularly was Jeanette Horton. Horton started doing housekeeping work for the Schultzes in the 199, and would be at the house every Thursday for at least three hours.

“He always was so kind and just with so much gratitude with the work that we did for him. He said thank you for keeping my home so beautiful,” she said. “They treated me just like their family. They were wonderful people, very kind.”

Horton continued working for the Schultzes until retiring this year because of COVID-19 safety concerns. She fondly remembers the last time she saw Schultz.

“The last time he came it was a year ago October and we were invited to see him at the new farmhouse,” she recollected. “We all shared ice cream with him. It was just so wonderful, and he was just so thankful at that time for what



Brian and Brent Dassatti visit with George Schultz in his Washington office in the 1980s.  
*Submitted photo courtesy of Phyllis Dassatti*

we had done for them.”

Schultz was an avid golfer. A member at Augusta National Golf Club, Burning Tree Golf Club, Cypress Point Golf Club, and San Francisco Golf Club, he had the opportunity to play some of the most prestigious and renowned courses in the country. However, there was one small course nestled in Cummington’s neighbor that never failed to capture his attention.

“We played Worthington [Club] and as we finished, I said ‘would you and Alex like to play somewhere you haven’t played in Berkshire County?’” said Liston’s Bar grill owner Steve Magargal. “He goes ‘why would we play anywhere else? I want to play Worthington tomorrow at 9 o’clock.’”

Magargal added, “When the country was rolling, and he was heavily involved with that, he still found his way to the Worthington Golf Club every summer... When the golf club was celebrating its 75th anniversary, he made a point to get here. I’ll never forget that.”

Schultz considered Worthington’s seventh hole to be one of the most beautiful and challenging holes he ever played, noting “a par on seven is real victory.”

Magargal’s friendship with Schultz goes back to when he was 12 and he had the privilege of being Schultz’s caddie

at Worthington. Known for being a very generous tipper, Magargal felt lucky to be his caddie. It was the start of a friendship that continued through the rest of their lives.

“In the year of the cold war, he represented us, all of us. He was a regular guy you could see obviously very bright and very powerful, but he never threw his weight around,” Magargal said. “He treated everybody really well. I never saw a moment of anger or never heard a mean word come out of his mouth.”

In 1992, Magargal and his friend were planning a trip out to California to see the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. Schultz told them to give him a call when they were making plans and he’d set them up, and he delivered. They couldn’t believe it when they ended up with a spot in the San Francisco Golf Club.

“Its maybe the most private golf club, certainly one of them in the country. I was really psyched, and we get put there and they treat us like kings cause we’re Mr. Schultz’s guests,” Magargal recalled. “We were invited to come into the clubhouse... We go in, we sit down, and we watch the Bulls. We built up quite a bar tab and they wouldn’t let us pay it, so Mr. Schultz got stiffed.”

Figiela also met Schultz initially through his golf outings at Worthington.

Working with her husband at the Golf Club, some of her earliest memories and stories of George go back to days working the course. The friendship would blossom into a lifelong treasure, with many conversations over coffee and discussions over Schultz’s books.

“My favorite memories of George are sitting on his back porch drinking coffee and having conversations,” Figiela said. “Every time he was in Cummington there were numerous occasions of having lovely, lengthy conversations with him. I think he gave me every book that he wrote.”

Figiela fondly recalled Schultz’s last book was given to her at the start of a week and she was told by George to read it by the end of the week.

“At the time I had three jobs and didn’t have a whole lot of time to read the book, but I skimmed through it as quickly as I could,” she said. “We must’ve spent three hours discussing his last book, which was very special for me.”

When her son went into the Marine Corps, Figiela said Schultz wrote him a letter during bootcamp encouraging him to get through it, a message from a fellow Marine. She said Schultz was always a great friend and a great family man.

“My whole family loved George. I have four children and they all think the world of him,” she said. “His family was incredibly important to him. From his parents, his first wife, his recent wife, all of his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, he adored them all. To see him interacting with his family was heartwarming. They’re all very special people.”

No matter how much time he had to spend in Cummington each year, his impact on the town and its people will be fondly remembered.

“He didn’t put himself first. He really did put the country first, his family first. I liked that about him,” said Forgea. “I can’t say enough good about him. The younger generation, the children, always came around to say hi, were friendly. They were just so nice. It’s unusual to have someone like that living in your community and have them be so much a part of it.”

Magargal added “He just brightened everyone’s day. He had that just, he just had it. If there was something to have, he just had it.”

Figiela said, “When he came up here, he was just another hilltownner — sweet, giving, social, personable — not the politician people would really think. He was down to earth and a wonderful guy... I consider myself privileged and honored to consider him a friend and to have known him. I’ll miss him.”

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.

GivingBack

with TURLEY PUBLICATIONS

If you are a non-profit please send us your events at no charge to your organization.

We want to help you get the word out to the community on what you are doing and when you are doing it.

WE WANT YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

If your event needs more attention, please consider running an advertisement in your community paper, call today 413-283-8393. Please let us know you are a non-profit, so we can better serve you.

12 Weekly Newspapers • [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)



# Al's Tire & Auto Repair

When it comes to tires we do it all,  
from wheelbarrows to big rigs.

**MOST MAJOR TIRE BRANDS AVAILABLE**  
**Brakes, Shocks, Struts, Front End Repairs & Alignments**  
**Air Conditioning Service**

918 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mike Morin **562-3391 ~ 562-1704** David Fasser



## Richard's

### FUEL & HEATING INC.

Fueling Generations Since 1966

- Locally Owned & Operated for 50 Years
- Oil Customers - 24 Hour Emergency Service & Automatic Delivery Available
- New System Installations - Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Dealer
- Heating Oil Plus - Maximize Energy Dollars: Keep system running Clean

**79 Union St., Rear 2, Easthampton, MA 01027**  
**413-527-0194**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10			
11					12					13	14	15	
16					17				18				
19				20	21			22	23			24	
25						26				27			
28					29					30			
				31	32				33				
34	35	36	37					38					
39					40	41	42						
43				44						45	46	47	48
49			50					51	52				
53		54						55					
56		57				58				59			
60					61	62				63			
			64							65			

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Ancient Persian city  
5. Spindles  
11. Stake  
12. Retrain  
16. Close by  
17. Commercial  
18. One who publicly announces  
19. American ballplayer  
24. Junior's father  
25. Go up or climb  
26. Concern  
27. When you hope to get there  
28. Iacocca and Oswald are two  
29. Plant of the lily family  
30. Male college organization  
31. National capital  
33. Raccoonlike animal  
34. Symbols of fertility  
38. Astronomy unit

39. Series of ridges in anatomy  
40. Hebrew leader  
43. A portent of good or evil  
44. Supreme goddess  
45. Gelatinous substance  
49. Engage in a contest  
50. Famed ballplayer Ruth  
51. Pledge  
53. -, denotes past  
54. Revival  
56. Spanish surname  
58. Gold  
59. Elsa's sister  
60. Workplace  
63. Large quantity of something  
64. Engraved  
65. Discount

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Shoe  
2. Disquiet  
3. Posture

4. Large nests  
5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer  
6. Joins two pipes of different diameter  
7. Exist  
8. Overdose  
9. Pleat of fabric  
10. Predict the future  
13. Burgeoning technology  
14. Having made a valid will  
15. Having no fixed course  
20. \_\_ route  
21. Lethal dose  
22. Indian musical pattern of notes  
23. Athlete  
27. Geological times  
29. Atomic #21  
30. In support of  
31. Brew  
32. Certificate of insurance  
33. Taxi

34. Type of saying  
35. For cigars  
36. Phil \_\_, former CIA  
37. Local area network  
38. Gym class  
40. Philippine Island  
41. Not great or bad  
42. Eastern part of NY state  
44. Gov't lawyers  
45. Constructions  
46. Former British gold coin  
47. Unkeyed  
48. Rechristen  
50. Threaten persistently  
51. Southeast  
52. Cools your home  
54. Removes the leaves  
55. Regretted  
57. Thus  
61. Relief organization (abbr.)  
62. Exclamation of surprise

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may be falling behind on keeping resolutions, but that is alright. It's easy to get back on track once you set your mind to it. Ask a friend to keep you accountable.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22

This week can prove to be epic if you just go with the flow a little bit, Cancer. Let others take the lead and simply follow along. You never know where things will lead.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a midweek business proposition or a real estate endeavor may present itself. This could lead to some exciting changes for your family.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20

Boredom isn't a bad thing when you desire a respite While others may be looking for ways to chase away cabin fever, you may be perfectly content snuggling in.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18

Unexpected partnerships can yield some amazing results, Aquarius. This may be the opportunity you are looking for at this juncture in your life. Push ahead for the time being.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20

Momentum swings in your favor and you can sail through all of your tasks and goals in record time. Enjoy the ride.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, right now your mind is focused on "the more the merrier" but you have to find ways to safely connect with others. Keep everyone's health in mind.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, figure out how to align your priorities with what you do for a living. It could mean changing careers. Even though it may seem risky right now, start exploring the waters.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/Jun 21

It may have seemed like the last few months of 2020 flew by, Gemini. A new year provides a chance to restart, slow down and smell the proverbial roses.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, some down time and R&R can do a body good. Ask your partner to cover for you and then reciprocate so you can both unplug and refresh.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22

You don't mind defending your opinions or your ideals, Scorpio. In fact, you are highly skilled at constructive conversation. Your negotiation tactics may be put to the test.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21

The early part of the week may be pretty uneventful, but things heat up as the week progresses, Sagittarius. You may not have time to do everything you desire.

answers

2	4	7	6	5	8	3	9	1
1	5	9	2	3	7	4	8	6
6	8	3	4	9	1	2	5	7
5	9	4	1	6	3	8	7	2
7	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4
8	1	2	7	4	9	5	6	3
4	7	1	9	2	5	6	3	8
9	2	8	3	1	6	7	4	5
3	6	5	8	7	4	1	2	9

9	5	1	6	3	2	8	4	7
7	8	6	4	5	1	2	9	3
3	4	2	7	9	8	6	5	1
6	1	3	2	8	9	4	7	5
4	7	8	1	6	5	3	2	9
2	9	5	3	7	1	6	8	
8	6	7	9	1	3	5	1	2
5	2	1	8	1	6	9	3	4
1	3	9	5	2	7	1	8	6

		8				5			
4			6						
				3	7		4	9	
								2	
6						1	8		
	7				8		3		
		5	9			7		4	
					5				
				2	3	9		5	6

# SUDOKU

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC



### AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

## NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

# WHOLESALE      RETAIL

★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service    ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds

★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer    ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE"    8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

**Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611    FAX # 568-1554**

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts

OBITUARIES

Carlton “Butch” John Garen, 71

Carlton “Butch” John Garen, 71, passed away peacefully on Feb. 3, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center. Butch was born on Oct. 26, 1949, in Springfield, son to the late John C. and June L. (Sherman) Garen. He was raised and educated in West Springfield, and was a graduate from West Springfield High School. He later attended UMASS Amherst and earned his degree in Landscape Architecture. Butch honorably served his country in the United States Army during Vietnam. He worked for Old Colony Envelope, and later retired from Sullivan Paper Company in West



Springfield. He had a passion for vintage and classic cars, owning, restoring, and detailing his prized corvettes and several other antique cars. Butch enjoyed maintaining his yard to perfection.

Butch is survived by his daughter Kelly Garen and her fiancé Jonathan Bandoski of Chester, his cherished pup Winnie, and his benevolent Karen Garen. All services for Butch will be private for the family.

To express condolences to the family of Butch, please visit [www.westfieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.westfieldfuneralhome.com) for Butch’s tribute page.

Nancy Ellen (Paul) West, 93

Nancy Ellen (Paul) West, 93, passed away peacefully at Linda Manor on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021. Nancy was born Jan. 5, 1928 in Warren, Maine, and was the daughter of the late Reverend Charles D. and Esther (Morgan) Paul. She grew up in Southern Maine before moving to Russell, and then Amherst, Massachusetts. She attended grammar school in Russell and Westfield High School, and graduated from Amherst High School in 1946. She then attended Miss Barker’s School in Springfield, MA and was employed as a nanny.



Nancy married David E. West in 1950 and they spent 70 wonderful years together in Williamsburg, where they raised three daughters. Nancy was a member of the First Congregational Church of Williamsburg and its Women’s Fellowship, the Williamsburg Grange, and the Williamsburg Historical Society. She was actively involved in her community as a member of the Mothers’ Club, a Girl Scout leader, a member of the church choir, and a Sunday School teacher. She was instrumental in establishing the Hilltown Cooperative Kindergarten in 1964. Nancy supported her beloved husband, David, while he owned and operated the West Clothing Center in Florence for over 25 years, while she excelled as a homemaker.

Throughout her life, Nancy enjoyed traveling, dancing, doing handcrafts, reading, and doing genealogy research. She especially loved the ocean and enjoyed

vacationing in York Beach, Maine, with her family, a tradition she was raised with and passed on to her daughters and grandchildren. Nancy has been blessed with a large and loving family, and she will be remembered as a very loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

She will be deeply missed by devoted husband of 70 years, David; her daughters Lisa West and her husband Thomas of Hadley, Pamela Watson of Allen, Texas, and Jeana West of Williamsburg; her grandchildren Lila West of South Hadley, Diana West of Hadley, Timothy Watson and his wife Megan of Richmond, Virginia, Grace Stanek of Williamsburg, and Alyssa Stanek of Williamsburg; her sister-in-law Carol Paul of Florida; and her extended family Richard West and his wife Diane and their children Tristan, Megan, and Stephanie of Hadley, Jennifer West of Northampton, Margaret Lyman of Amherst, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Andrew Paul

of Florida.

Nancy’s family would like to thank Afrike and Samantha for their loving and compassionate in-home care, Cooley Dickinson VNA and Hospice Care for their support throughout Nancy’s journey, and the staff at Linda Manor for their wonderful care. Donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Williamsburg or the Highland Ambulance Service.

Funeral services and burial will be held at a later date. Williamsburg Funeral Home has been entrusted with her service.

DEATH NOTICES

GAREN, CARLTON JOHN

Died Feb. 3, 2021  
Services are Private

WEST (PAUL), NANCY ELLEN

Died Feb. 17, 2021  
Services to be held at later date.

Country Journal  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF WORTHINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD

The Worthington Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws.

The Hearing will be held **Friday, March 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM.**

**Remote public access** will be provided utilizing GoToMeeting virtual software:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/700268037>

To attend via phone dial: 646-749-3112; access code: 700-268-037.

A link to the meeting and the proposed text of the bylaw can be found on the Town website’s community calendar – by clicking on the date of the meeting.

A copy of the text of the proposed bylaw may also be

obtained by calling the Town Clerk at 413 238-5577 ext. 110.  
02/25, 03/04/2021

Notice of Hearing  
Town of Williamsburg

A public hearing will be held under Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 138 on **Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** by video/teleconference, to act on the application of Williamsburg Snack Bar LLC for an annual Wine & Malt Beverages Restaurant liquor license at 109 Main Street, Haydenville. Instructions for participating will be given in the Board of Selectmen’s agenda [www.burgy.org/node/136/agenda/2020](http://www.burgy.org/node/136/agenda/2020) 48 hours in advance.

For more information email [selectmen@burgy.org](mailto:selectmen@burgy.org). By order of the Board of Selectmen.

William B. Sayre, Chair  
02/25/2021


HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Country Journal* should be sent directly to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com). Jamie Joslyn processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393. **Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.**


BUSINESS DIRECTORY


**George**  
**PROPANE INC.**  
**PROPANE GAS**  
**PLUMBING • HEATING**  
**(413) 268-8360**  
**TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053**  
Family Owned & Operated  
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032  
[www.georgepropane.com](http://www.georgepropane.com)

**WHITING**  
**ENERGY FUELS**  
**Heating Oil & Diesel**  
[whitingenergy.com](http://whitingenergy.com)  
300A KING ST., NORTHAMPTON  
584-3500  
11 CLEVELAND RD., DALTON  
1-800-722-0014

**DOWN TO EARTH**  
**EXCAVATING INC.**  
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work,  
Septic Development and Repairs. Fully Insured.  
**413+667+5269**  
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

**Dale's Structural**  
**& Carpentry**  
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling  
Timber Frame Homes Kitchen & Baths  
Residential Drywall • Paint • Trim Work  
Seasonal Homes & Camps Windows • Doors  
Garage Repairs Decks & Stairs  
Carriage & Colonial Barns Interior & Exterior Finishes  
**Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry**  
Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termites Damage  
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds  
**413-667-3149**

**AQUA PUMPS**  
**WATER SYSTEMS**  
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps  
Water Conditioners  
**46 Pitcher Street** **Donald Washburn**  
**Montgomery, MA 01085** **862-3301**

**Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**  
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service  
Water Testing System Evaluations  
Water System Repairs  Hydrofracture to Increase Flow  
**800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565**  
**Charles R. Henshaw**  
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

Time to CLEAN UP **Hilltown**  
**Cleaning Services**  
Established in 1982 • House Cleaning Plus  
Carpet & Upholstery Steam Cleaned  
Wood Floors, Waxed & Buffed  
No Wax Floors, Stripped & Refinished  
Hauling Trash • Appliance Removal • Pressure Washing  
Gutters Cleaned Out • Cleaning Out Cellars & Attics  
P.O. Box 244 **Phone: (413) 238-5966**  
Worthington, MA 01098 **Fax: (413) 238-0459**  
Carol Labonte  
Paul Labonte

**Jeff's**  
**Oil Burner Service**  
• Tune Ups  
• Installations  
• Oil Tanks  
**Huntington, Massachusetts**  
Office **413.667.0245**  
Cell **413.530.7037**  
[jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com)

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL  
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED  
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING  
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER  
**GATEWAY FARM & PET**  
    
**59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050**  
**1-413-667-2279** M-F 8am-5pm  
Sat. 8am-4pm  
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

**Paul's**  
**Plumbing & Heating**  
  
**238-0303**  
PAUL GRAHAM  
Mass. License 23299

**ARCHITECT**  
**JEFFREY SCOTT PENN**  
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
Tel. 413w-667-5230  
fax. 413-667-3082  
Email: [jpsped@verizon.net](mailto:jpsped@verizon.net)  
new construction, renovation,  
historic preservation

**Contact**  
**John Baskin**  
**to advertise at**  
**413-695-4901**  
**or email:**  
[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

## FOR SALE

**ANTIQUE AND PERIOD CHAIRS**  
– Restored with new woven seats –  
Many styles and weaves available. Call  
**(413)289-6670**

**DISH TV - \$59.99** For 190 Channels  
+ \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free  
installation, Smart HD DVR Included,  
Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions  
apply. Call **1-877-925-7371**

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance.  
Central Boiler certified Classic Edge  
Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD  
FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**A PLACE FOR MOM.** The nation's  
largest senior living referral service.  
Contact our trusted, local experts to-  
day! Our service is FREE/no obliga-  
tion. CALL **1-855-799-4127**

**DEALING WITH WATER DAMAGE**  
requires immediate action. Local  
professionals that respond immedi-  
ately. Nationwide and 24/7. No Mold Calls.  
**1-800-506-3367**

**DO YOU HAVE** chronic knee or back  
pain? If you have insurance, you may  
qualify for the perfect brace at little to  
no cost. Get yours today! Call **1-800-217-0504**

**INVENTORS- FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE** Have your  
product idea developed affordably by  
the Research & Development pros  
and presented to manufacturers. Call  
**855-380-5976** for a free idea starter  
guide. Submit your idea for a free con-  
sultation.

**LIFE ALERT. 24/7.** One press of  
a button sends help FAST! Medical,  
Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach  
a phone! FREE brochure. CALL **800-457-1917**

## FOR SALE

**MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER** MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT  
SYSTEM. Whether you're Home or  
Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind.  
No Long Term Contracts! Free Bro-  
chure! Call Today! **1-844-892-1017**

**OXYGEN-ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.** No tanks to refill. No deliv-  
eries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved!  
FREE info kit: Call **1-855-917-4693**

**PROMOTE YOUR PRODUCT,** ser-  
vice or business to 1.7 million house-  
holds throughout New England. Reach  
4 million potential readers quickly and  
inexpensively with great results. Use  
the Buy New England Classified Ad  
Network by calling **(413)283-8393**,  
classifieds@turley.com. Do they work?  
You are reading one of our ads now!!  
Visit our website to see where your ads  
run communitypapersne.com

**STAY IN YOUR HOME** longer with  
an American Standard Walk-In Bath-  
tub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including  
a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty  
on the tub and installation! Call us at  
**1-866-945-3783**.

**STOP STRUGGLING ON THE** STAIRS.  
Give your life a lift with an  
ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250.  
OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE  
DVD & brochure! **1-844-325-8610**

Classified  
Advertising  
DEADLINES

QUABBIN &  
SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

## TAX SERVICES




**CHANTEL BLEAU**  
**ACCOUNTING SERVICES**  
For Full Accounting & Tax Service  
Registered Tax Return Preparer  
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082  
**413-967-8364**  
*Call For An Appointment*  
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer.  
For more information on tax preparers go to [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).



588 Center Street  
Ludlow, MA 01056  
[www.ajefinancial.com](http://www.ajefinancial.com)  
**(413)589-1671**

We are here and ready for the 2020 tax filing season!  
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership tax filing.  
*Please give us a call at the office or  
visit our website for our COVID practices.*

**Income Tax Preparation**  
~ 31 years tax experience ~  
**Bruce J. Charwick**  
62 Jim Ash Road  
Palmer, MA 01069  
**(413) 283-5596**

**Kitchen Table Taxes**  
Personal & Small Business Tax Returns  
"David The Tax Man"  


Tel: **413-289-0058**  
Fax: **413-324-2167**  
Credit Cards Welcome  
[kitchentabletaxes@gmail.com](mailto:kitchentabletaxes@gmail.com)  
David E. Whitney  
Enrolled Agent  
Sixty-Five Jim Ash Road  
Palmer, MA 01069-9814  
[www.kitchentabletaxes.com](http://www.kitchentabletaxes.com)

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States  
**FAST TAX USA**  
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE  
**413 324-2135**  
IRS Certified Tax Preparers  
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.  
1622 North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069  
Fasttax@charter.net  
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

**Melchiori Tax and Financial Services**  
**IRS Problems?**  
Let a Professional Handle it for you.  
Call us anytime!  
Complete Tax Services:  
Personal, Business, Corporations and Partnerships  
Telephone (413) 786-8727 • Fax (413) 786-1833  
[betty@melchioritax.com](mailto:betty@melchioritax.com) • [pauline@melchioritax.com](mailto:pauline@melchioritax.com)  
24 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here  
**CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

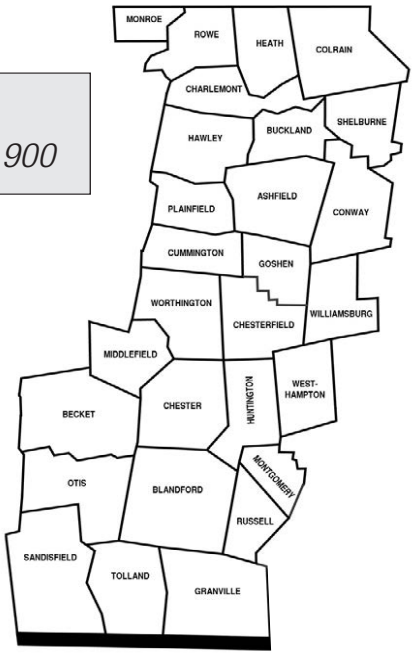
**MAIL TO:** Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call toll free: 413-283-8393

**DEADLINES:** HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**  
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$9.50
21 Base Price \$10.00	22 Base Price \$10.50	23 Base Price \$11.00	24 Base Price \$11.50
25 Base Price \$12.00	26 Base Price \$12.50	27 Base Price \$13.00	28 Base Price \$13.50
29 Base Price \$14.00	30 Base Price \$14.50	31 Base Price \$15.00	32 Base Price \$15.50
33 Base Price \$16.00	34 Base Price \$16.50	35 Base Price \$17.00	36 Base Price \$17.50
37 Base Price \$18.00	38 Base Price \$18.50	39 Base Price \$19.00	40 Base Price \$19.50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 11,900



Buy the Hilltowns ZONE for \$9.50 for 20 words  
plus 50¢ for each additional word.  
Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in  
ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Hilltowns  
☐ Suburban  
☐ Quabbin

## OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

RUSSELL

FISHING FOR A BITE



Top left, Harrison Cook, left, and Kevin Cook learn to ice fish from Eagle Scout Jack Mannix during the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures on Saturday, Feb. 20. Bottom left, Harrison Cook drills a fishing hole with help from Craig Mannix. Above, Scout Leaders, scouts, and parents enjoyed a day on the frozen lake with ice fishing and an ice rescue demonstration by the Russell Fire Department.

Photos by Shelby Macri

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS  
SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

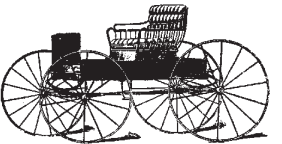
Call us at 413.283.8393

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SERVICES

**1\*\*\*\*\*A CALL WE HAUL  
WE TAKE IT ALL  
WE LOAD IT ALL**  
Lowest Rates,  
accumulations, junk, estates,  
attics, garages, appliances,  
basements, demo services.  
10% disc. with this ad of services.  
Dumpster Rentals available for rent.  
All Major CC's  
CALL NOW **(413)531-1936**  
acallwehaul@gmail.com

**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING** & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.



**WE RENOVATE, SELL & PURCHASE** (any condition) horse drawn vehicles such as sleighs, carriages, surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, driveable or lawn ornaments. Some furniture and other restoration services available. Reasonable prices. Quality workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373** for estimate and information.  
**DEMERS & SONS  
BELCHERTOWN, MA**

CHILD SERVICES

**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

**DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT** for all your exterior home improvement needs. **ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUTTERS.** Extensive references available. Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT. Call **GARY DELCAMP @ 413-569-3733**

AUTO

**CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!!** All Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Condition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid! Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call Now: **1-888-513-1505.**

REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR SALE

**SMALL WATERFRONT LOTS**  
Dock coming soon, swimming and fishing. Holland, MA. \$19,000 each or best offer **(508) 868-6157**

FOR RENT



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

VACATION RENTALS

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Tracking in winter with the Library

**RUSSELL** — Take a "Snow Hike," and see if any animal tracks can be found on a winter's day. Lois Kiraly has prepared a wonderful guide, "Who Goes There?," animal tracks in the snow for all to enjoy. Experience nature at its best!  
The library has made an activity packet for kids on animal tracking which includes animal track puzzle pieces and explorer ID cards. A suggested reading is "Crinkleroot's Book of Animal Tracking" by Jim Arnosky. Crinkleroot takes readers on an adventure in the forest to find animal tracks and it's pretty amazing what he finds. Please visit the library for the animal tracking guide, the activity packet for kids, and to view the picture book. Also, patrons can use the library's curbside pick-up service.



A guide on identifying animal tracks in the snow is one of the offerings at the Russell public Library for learning about animal tracking this winter.

Submitted photo

Recycle Your Stuff for Cash in the Classifieds



Call or use the form in papers, to sell!

Turley Publications, Inc.

CLASSIFIEDS

WWW.NEWSPAPERS.TURLEY.COM • 413.283.8393